

# Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections  
215 Bay Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
*December 16, 2020*

## Present:

### **Board**

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)

### **Staff**

Jeri Cook, Election Director

### **Board Attorney**

Lyndsey Ryan

### **Public**

None

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on December 16, 2020. Due to restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the meeting was held by videoconference and teleconference. The public was invited to listen by conference call and advised via the Board website and on the agenda of the procedure to do so. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2020, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Black moved approval of the minutes as presented. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

## **Addition/Changes to the Agenda**

Mr. Secrist asked if there were any additions to the agenda as published. Ms. MacKinnon moved approval of the agenda as presented. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

## **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **Election Director's Report**

Ms. Cook reported on the following:

- Clear Ballot results of the election showed only 0.0004% difference, well below the 0.5% that would have called for additional auditing. The state certified the election results on December 4, 2020.
- At the recommendation of the state and the Governor, there will only be one person in the office at this time. The rest of the office staff will continue to telework. Fred Gleockler will be in the warehouse, to conduct the mandatory maintenance on the equipment.
- She met with 5 Chief Judges and received good feedback and suggestions regarding additional training and room set up. They like the idea of vote centers and the security of the carts being used for the ballots.
- Request for Proposals is out by the state for purchasing new the poll books in anticipation of 2022 elections.
- She has elected not to attend the IGO conference due to COVID concerns.
- The rental invoice from the Easton Airport for our warehouse space was forwarded to the county. She has heard nothing from the county regarding this bill.
- The part time person is still being used.
- Ms. Cook will be on leave through January 5, 2021

Ms. Cook noted the proclamation adopted by the County Council. While the Council Members spoke highly regarding the election judges, Ms. Cook was disappointed that they did not address the time and effort put in by her staff.

## **Board Attorney's Report**

Ms. Ryan had nothing to report.

## **Old Business**

### **a. Facility for Election Office**

The County Council will meet with the Board of Elections on February 23, 2021 at 3:45 p.m. to discuss our space needs.

### **b. Review invoices**

Ms. Cook previously provided Board Members with copies of invoices received since the last meeting. She responded to questions from Board Members.

### **c. Budget FY2021**

Ms. Cook previously provided reports on expenditures recorded by the county through October. Also provided was a report on expenditures she was aware of up to November.

d. County Bulletins

Ms. Cook previously provided County Bulletins that are available to each Board Member. There were no questions from Board Members.

**New Business**

a. Budget FY2022

Ms. Cook provided the Board with a draft budget for consideration. She responded to questions and comments and offered to make revisions to her draft and forward the revised draft to Board Members.

**Confirmation of next meeting**

Mr. Secrist noted that the next meeting of the Board will be Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

**Board of Canvassers convene**

At this point, the Election Board met as the Board of Canvassers. Actions at this meeting were recorded separately.

**Closed Session**


Ms. Thomas moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters as permitted under General Provisions Art. 3-305(b) (1). Mr. Bulman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Whereupon the Board went into closed session at 11:05 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the Election Director's performance review. Present at this session were Board Members Mr. Secrist, Mr. Black, Ms. Thomas, Ms. MacKinnon and Mr. Bulman. Also present was Board Attorney Ms. Ryan.

At 11:33 a.m. the Board returned to open session where Ms. Cook was present. President Secrist reported that the Board completed the review of the Election Director's performance. Mr. Secrist and Mr. Black usually meet with the Election Director to discuss the Board's findings. However, Ms. Cook noted that, since only one State Employee at a time can be in the office due to the state's recommended limits, she asked that the review be done to meet these recommendations.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Attested,

  
Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard B. Bulman, Secretary